

Title of the Distinctive Practice of Chhotu Ram Arya College Sonapat

Social Cohesion (Outreach Programme in Rural Areas)

INTRODUCTION:

One of the distinguishing features of the education at Chhotu Ram Arya College is to create a feeling of camaraderie, companionship, empathy, and solidarity towards the deprived and marginalized section of society. The institute has a long history of imparting quality education to the under-privileged and marginalized sections of society. In the field of community service, the college has been continuing its long-running program to serve rural community which has been institutionalized as “**Adopt a Village**” in 2020 2021. As a part of this programme the college adopts a village in the Sonapat district. For the betterment of this village, we have a practice to organize a seven-day camp as decided by the NSS advisory Committee. In this camp, students stay as a community and cook for themselves. Students remain engaged in socially relevant and meaningful activities intending to address social issues prevalent in the region which are either swept under the carpet or ignored deliberately. Another feature of this camp is to sensitize students to the socio-economic problems of our rural areas. The volunteers interact with villagers, with students through quizzes, staging street plays, participating in cleanliness drives, and addressing different issues related to deprived gender, caste, and class. The practices of ‘Social Cohesion’ furtherance the removal of discrimination on the basis of caste, class and gender in society and institutions as well. In addition to the interaction with villagers and exposure to their problems, the students make them aware of different government policies and projects. The students also participate in rallies for important causes such as the march for science, increasing climate change awareness, HIV awareness, etc. Further to this, the students also participate in cleanliness drives in popular landmarks in the city, and spread messages for safe driving, etc. As the college gains experience, the program is being made richer to provide even better outcomes - both for the community in these villages and the students. To empower girl students, the authorities invite the parents of the girl students and convince them of the relevance of social work and co-curricular activities.

This distinctive practice targets:

- ❖ To enable students to comprehend, connect, and critically reflect on social issues which are of serious concern.

- ❖ To augment the process of social conscientiousness, responsibility, and accountability towards the marginalized, downtrodden, deprived, and oppressed sections of society.
- ❖ To provide a workable and executable space for students to invest their creative bests and talents to uplift and assist the deprived and oppressed communities.
- ❖ To promote college—community interaction and collaboration to build an inclusive society for mutual learning and contribution.
- ❖ The students also engage in the following activities:
 - **Tree-plantation Drive:** an initiative adopted to develop a community forest.
 - ***Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao:*** An initiative of Haryana Govt. to educate the people to abstain from female feticides, and to educate the girls.
 - ***Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan:*** A very enthusiastic campaign by the Indian Govt. to make your surroundings and the country free from filth.
 - **Govt. Schemes of Social Benefits** like Mukhya Mantri Vivah Shagun Yojna, Ladli Pension Yojna, Apki Beti Hamari Beti, Kishori Shakti Yojna, Kanya Kosh, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandhana Yojna
 - Health and Hygiene:
 - Save water
 - Save Energy
 - Social Awareness (among urban, rural and nomad community)
 - Blood Donation
 - Voluntary Donation

All the above activities are informed and executed by organizing the public rally, *Nukkad Natak*, speeches, debates, Pictorial presentations, etc. They actively participate in programmes related to traffic awareness, environment, ecology, fundamental rights, and human rights. Visit to old-age homes, destitute homes, orphanages, and children's homes is one of the regular practices of students and faculty members, where they interact emotionally with the inmates and engaged themselves in support for the less fortunate and marginalized people.

Evidence of Success

The objective of this programme is to engage all the students of Chhotu Ram Arya College to bring them face-to-face to social realities and the lives of the underprivileged, deprived, and marginalized people of our society. The vision of this type of interaction would be transformative and informative and encourage them to combat the inequities of the prevailing social order.

Appreciation Certificates from Different Gram Panchayats, Government and Non-Government Organizations to the college as well as teachers-in-charge vouch for the success of this program. Dr Usha Dahiya was awarded by Sarathi Jan Seva Charitable Trust Sonapat, Jan

Chetna Abhiyaan Samiti Sonapat, Beti Bachao Jan Chetna Abhiyaan Samiti and Inner Wheel Club Sonapat. Dr. Usha Dahiya and Mr. Ram Niwas is awarded best NSS co-ordinator and Volunteer of the state respectively. Feedback from the beneficiaries, students, and teachers has been tremendously positive, it indicates that this programme has been inching ahead in gaining significant success to achieve the target. At the outset, the assessment of the program confirmed that systematic and assuring work is carried out. As it is an activity that continues throughout the year, the contribution to society becomes sustainable. Some communities are getting perpetual support through the outreach center which establishes a direct linkage between the community and the college. This programme has been running with the hope that all the active volunteers will transform into potent agents of social change and ideal denizens. If this prototype is applied on a Pan-India scale, the day is not far when a robust civil society will emerge.

Resources Engaged:

- Human Resources: 8 Staff members (3 Teaching, 6 non-teachings) are exclusively given responsibility for the smooth conduct and coordination of this programme.
- Infrastructure: Outreach Centre is housed in two separate blocks in the main building of the college.
- Financial Resources: Camps and programs are funded by the college as well as partially by the State Govt.
- Government and Non-Government Organizations such as Nehru Yuva Kendra Sonapat, Inner Wheel Club of Sonapat, Sarathi Jan Sewa Charitable Trust etc.